

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 15 to 22 and amend the claims as shown below. Please cancel Claims 3, 5 to 8, 10, 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric charging apparatus for charging a secondary battery which is held in the apparatus and ~~being is~~ attachable to a printer, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging apparatus is attached to the printer, comprising:

a communication unit configured to ~~perform communication with~~ periodically receive an electric charging control signal from the printer to which the electric charging apparatus is attached;

determination means for determining an electric charging condition for electrically charging the secondary battery; and

control means for controlling to start electric charging of the secondary battery ~~in accordance with an electric charging control signal for the secondary battery, transmitted via said communication unit from the printer in a case where a print head of the printer is capped, and based on~~ the electric charging condition determined by said determination means, in a case that either (i) the electric charging control signal indicates permission of electric charging of the secondary battery, or (ii) the electric charging control signal is not received from the printer for a predetermined time period.

2. (Previously Presented) The charging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input terminal configured to input an electric power from a commercial power source; and

power source relay means for supplying the electric power supplied via said input terminal to the printer, and relay-outputting the electric power for the electric charging of the secondary battery.

3. to 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An electric charging control method in an electric charging apparatus for charging a secondary battery which is held in the apparatus and ~~being is~~ attachable to a printer main body, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging unit is attached to the printer, said method comprising:

a supply step of supplying the electric power from the secondary battery to the printer to which the electric charging unit is attached;

a determination step of determining an electric charging condition for electrically charging the secondary battery;

a reception step of periodically receiving an electric charging control signal for the secondary battery from the printer, in correspondence with a state of the printer; and

a control step of controlling to start electric charging of the secondary battery in accordance with the electric charging control signal received in said reception step and based on the electric charging condition determined in said determination step, in a case that either (i) the

electric charging control signal indicates permission of electric charging of the secondary battery,  
or (ii) the electric charging control signal is not received from the printer for a predetermined  
time period.

12. to 14. (Cancelled).

15. (New) An electric charging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination means determines whether or not the secondary battery is in an abnormal state.

16. (New) An electric charging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the electric charging control signal includes data designating whether or not to suspend electric charging of the secondary battery and data designating to enable a transition to a shut off state of the electric charging apparatus.

17. (New) An electric charging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the electric charging control signal indicates permission of electric charging of the secondary battery when the printer is in a standby mode.

18. (New) An electric charging apparatus being attachable to a printer, for charging a secondary battery that is held in the electric charging apparatus, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging apparatus is attached to the printer, the apparatus comprising:

determination means for determining whether or not the secondary battery is in an abnormal state;

reception means for periodically receiving a signal including data indicating whether or not electric charging of the secondary battery is permitted from the printer; and

control means for controlling to start electric charging of the secondary battery in a case that said reception means receives the signal including data indicating that the electric charging of the secondary battery is permitted and said determination means determines that the secondary battery is not in an abnormal state.

19. (New) An electric charging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the electric charging control signal includes data designating whether or not to suspend electric charging of the secondary battery and data designating to enable a transition to a shut off state of the electric charging apparatus.

20. (New) An electric charging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the electric charging control signal indicates permission of electric charging of the secondary battery when the printer is in a standby mode.

21. (New) An electric charging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the abnormal state of the secondary battery is detected based on the temperature of the secondary battery.

22. (New) A control method of an electric charging apparatus that is attachable to a printer, for charging a secondary battery that is held in the electric charging apparatus, the printer being driven by electric power from the secondary battery while the electric charging apparatus is attached to the printer, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not the secondary battery is in an abnormal state;

periodically receiving a signal including data indicating whether or not electric charging of the secondary battery is permitted from the printer; and

controlling to start electric charging of the secondary battery in a case that the signal including data indicating that the electric charging of the secondary battery is permitted is received in said receiving step and it is determined in said determining step that the secondary battery is not in an abnormal state.